
 <p>Green Mountain National Forest</p>	 <p>Finger Lakes National Forest</p>	<p>Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests</p> <p><i>For Immediate Release</i></p> <p>Monday, September 12, 2011</p>
<p>News Release</p>		<p>Contact: Ethan Ready 802-747-6760</p>
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GMNF RE-OPENS ALPINE SKI AREAS AND MOOSALAMOO NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

RUTLAND, VT. As Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) employees continue to evaluate the conditions of roads, trails, and recreational facilities in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, today Forest Supervisor Colleen Madrid is re-opening additional parts of the Forest. Newly re-opened areas are locations at the Bromley, Mt. Snow, and Sugarbush alpine ski areas, which have special use permits with the GMNF. In addition, the GMNF is re-opening the nearly 16,000-acre Moosalamoo National Recreation Area in the western portion of the Rochester Ranger District. A detailed map showing each re-opened area can be found on the GMNF website.

Forest Supervisor Colleen Madrid said, “We are very pleased to be re-opening these sections of the Green Mountain National Forest and expect that we will be able to open other sections prior to the foliage season.” Initial damage assessments indicate that many areas, especially in the northern section of the Forest, have numerous washed out roads and trails that would be extremely dangerous for the public to use. Madrid went on to say, “We regret that we are unable to open other areas in the Forest at this time, but public and forest employee safety is our primary concern.”

Supervisor Madrid issued a forest-wide closure on September 1st to protect public safety and to allow Forest Service employees aided by additional out-of-state specialists to assess the condition of forest roads, recreation sites, and popular trails.

On September 8, Supervisor Madrid amended the closure order to allow for the public to begin using designated sections of the GMNF, as they are determined to be safe. On September 9, the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) re-opened approximately 5,000 acres on the Manchester Ranger District, in the southern portion of the Forest near the towns of Landgrove, Winhall, and Peru. The Forest Service has deployed two twenty-person chainsaw crews to check and clear the Appalachian and Long Trails. Crews continue to assess trail and recreation sites throughout the Forest. Officials with the Forest Service expect that the majority of trail clearing and initial assessments will be complete by the end of the week. For additional information on GMNF conditions, the public is encouraged to visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/greenmountain>

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